

1 This is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of international application number PCT/GB00/01217, filed on March 30, 2000, which claims priority from Great Britain Application No. 9907204.3, filed on March 30, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1-8 and 10-25 as follows. These claims are at pages 23-25 of the published international application, which are marked as "AMENDMENT SHEET (ARTICLE 19)". A marked-up copy of the claims is attached.

1. (Amended) A composite comprising a structural component and a resin component, the structural component comprising structural fibers and a toughening additive comprising non structural thermoplastic fibers and the resin component comprising a non-thermoplastic material, and the structural component being a preform comprising an assembly formed from the structural fibers and the non-structural thermoplastic fibers, which are in a fiber form in the composite.

2. (Amended) The composite as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the resin component is a thermosetting resin composition.

3. (Amended) The composite as claimed in either Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the resin component is a low viscosity thermosetting resin composition.

4. (Amended) The composite as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein a percentage by volume of the toughening additive in the composite is more than 2% but less than 30%.

5. (Amended) The composite as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein a volume of the toughening additive is more than 5% but less than 25%.

6. (Amended) The composite as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein a volume of the toughening additive is more than 10% but less than 20%.

7. (Amended) The composite as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the structural component is provided in a form of a plurality of layers of textile and at least one veil is provided between a pair of adjacent layers, the veil comprising a thin layer of woven or unwoven material.

8. (Amended) The composite as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein a volume fraction of the structural fibers in the preform is at least 65%.

10. (Amended) A structural reinforcement for use in a composite comprising a preform which comprises a dry fibrous assembly formed from structural fibers and non-structural thermoplastic fibers, wherein a volume fraction of the structural fibers in the preform is at least 65%.

11. (Amended) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 10,
wherein at least some of the thermoplastic fibers are semi-crystalline.

12. (Amended) The structural reinforcement as claimed in either Claim
10 or Claim 11, further comprising a resin curing agent.

13. (Amended) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 12
wherein the curing agent can be activated by changing temperature.

14. (Amended) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 10 or
11, wherein the preform comprises layers of textile and the reinforcement component
addition includes at least one veil between an adjacent pair of layers, the veil being formed
from a thin layer of woven or unwoven material.

15. (Amended) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein each veil includes thermoplastic fibers.

16. (Amended) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein binder material is distributed on or in the veil.

17. (Amended) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein the veil has a greater absorbency rate for resin than the structural fibers.

18. (Amended) The A structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 10 or 11, wherein the preform includes a textile comprising a hybrid yarn of commingled said structural fibers and said thermoplastic fibers or a yarn of said structural fibers and a yarn of said thermoplastic fibers.

19. (Amended) A method of making a composite comprising forming a preform by combining dry structural fibers with dry non-structural thermoplastic fibers in an assembly to provide a structural component, injecting or infusing a liquid resin into the structural component, and curing the liquid resin.

20. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein a resin curing agent is added to the structural component prior to the liquid resin.

21. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the curing agent is encapsulated in a material which melts at a first temperature and wherein the curing step involves raising a temperature to the first temperature to activate the resin curing agent.

22. (Amended) The method as claimed in any one of Claims 19 to 21, wherein the curing step is at least partially carried out at a temperature below the melting point of the thermoplastic fibers.

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23. (Amended) The method as claimed in any one of Claims 19 to 21, wherein the preform includes textile is provided in layers and a veil is provided between at least one adjacent pair of layers prior to addition of the resin, the veil comprising a thin layer of woven or non-woven material.

24. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 23, further comprising distributing binder material on or in the veil.

25. (Amended) The method as claimed in any one of Claims 19 to 21, wherein the resin injection process is resin transfer molding or composite resin injection molding.

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Kindly add new claims 26-29 as follows:

26. (New) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 15, wherein binder material is distributed on or in the veil.

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27. (New) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the veil has a greater absorbency rate for resin than the fibers.

28. (New) The structural reinforcement as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the veil has a greater absorbency rate for resin than the fibers.